

CLASSIFICATION SECRET -
NOFORNCOUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Exercise of the 25th Tk Div and Military Activity at Prenzlau 25X1EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 18 October 1955REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED InformationB - boxcar
F - flatcar

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1. On 17, 18 and 19 September 1955, the tank unit and the artillery unit left the barracks installation southeast of Berliner Strasse (4742) in Prenzlau for a field exercise. Return of the units was observed on 24 and 26 September. The troops were entrained and unloaded at the Prenzlau freight station. Details observed included:

At about 2000 on 17 September. About 30 trucks occupied by soldiers and towing 25 artillery pieces left the kaserne SE of Berliner Strasse. The soldiers carried full field pack. At about 2330, the column was followed by about 30 T-34/85 tanks. 25X1

At 0345 on 19 September. Eight T-34/85 tanks drove from the kaserne SE of Berliner Strasse to the Prenzlau freight station.

At 2130 on 24 September. A troop train with 22 T-34/85 tanks was unloaded at the Prenzlau freight station. The tanks drove to the kaserne SE of Berliner Strasse.

At about 2000 on 26 September. A column of 20 x 122-mm field howitzers, 6 x 76-mm field guns, about 40 trucks and 3 field kitchens with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets returned to the kaserne SE of Berliner Strasse. At about 2100, a column of 5 T-34/85 tanks, 6 trucks, 3 repair shop trucks and 3 field kitchens returned to the same installation.

2. On 15 September, a roll call of soldiers who were to be discharged was held at the kaserne SE of Berliner Strasse in Prenzlau.

On 16 September, the discharge movement began. Since this date about 10 to 15 unarmed soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets who carried suit cases have been seen daily leaving the kaserne toward the railroad station. About 200 discharges, including about 100 NCOs, could be observed. Replacements had not yet arrived. 2

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3. Troop trains observed at the Templin railroad station between 22 and 26 September included:

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At 0900 on 22 September. A train with 3 T-34 tanks, 2 JS-2 tanks, 2 JS-3 tanks and escort personnel was unloaded. The train came from the direction of Prenzlau. ¹

At 0600 on 23 September. A train of 6 B with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and an undetermined number of F with 5 JS-3 tanks and 15 trucks was unloaded. The train came from the direction of Eberswalde. ¹

At 1145 on 24 September. A train with 16 canvas-covered tanks passed through the Templin railroad station. The train came from the direction of Eberswalde and proceeded toward Vogelsang. ³

At 1630 on 24 September. A train of 7 B with soldiers and an undetermined number of F with 10 tanks, probably of the T-54 type, 5 JS-3 tanks and 20 trucks was unloaded. The train came from the direction of Eberswalde.

At 2230 on 25 September. A train with 6 tanks, probably of the T-54 type, 12 trucks and soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets was unloaded. The train came from the direction of Eberswalde.

At 2230 on 26 September. A train of an undetermined number of cars was loaded with 5 tanks of the T-34 or T-54 type, 8 JS-3 tanks, 6 armored personnel carriers and 15 trucks which were occupied by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets. The troops came from the direction of Vogelsang. ¹

1. Comment. The observations in Prenzlau and Templin complete the previous information on field exercises of the 25th Tk Div in the area of the Templin troop training grounds.

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The present report indicates that the maneuver probably lasted from 19 to 25 September. Contrary to observations in Prenzlau, the appearance of JS tanks leads to the assumption that elements of the 83d Tk SP Regt from the kaserne NW of Berliner Strasse (4741) in Prenzlau also participated in the field exercises. The troop trains which arrived at Templin at about the end of the maneuver have not been identified.

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2. Comment. Other observations on a personnel exchange movement of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army are not available. The discharges were possibly repatriated on regular leave trains.

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3. Comment. The train possibly carried T-54 tanks which were consigned to the 25th Tk Div. Similar observations were previously made at Templin.

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